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STATE OF ALASKA

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GOVERNOR

Sample

June 21, 1961

Ref: NonRec Wthd1 - 1(J-011927)

Manager, Juneau Land Office
Bureau of Land Management
Box 2511
Juneau, Alaska

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to ramifications of 43 U.S.C. 141 et seq. and Act 3 March 1927 (44 Stat. 1359), protest is hereby made against the proposed "aid-in-the-function of a Federal agency" withdrawal of certain PLO 842 lands adjacent to Auke Lake and Auke Creek. Legal description of protest tract more particularly described in record J-011927. This protest is instituted in good faith and the contentions, together with supportative data are presented for judication.

In order to maintain the present public useage, create necessary buffer zones both on stream and lake frontage, provide unhindered public access to both scenic and biotic environs, and to assure the future land-water availability for sports fishery management; it is necessary that this potentially desirable area be restored to the domains selected by the State and subsequently classified as a public access and recreation area.

Only in the aforementioned manner may the whole land area serve all our needs, achieve a proper use-balance of the primary values, and satisfy the realistic demands for recreational use in proportion to public needs and consistent with the public interest.

Although the primary concern of this department is the proper management of Alaska's wildlife resource, we are cognizant of the need for multiple-use programming and the coordination of all departmental efforts. Therefore, long-term fish and game management planning must take into account and initiate the most effective, balanced program for the many related uses of the wildlife resource. This requires research and classification of the waters for the primary purpose for which they are best fitted and the biota is then managed on this basis. Area under consideration has for six years been cataloged as a prime public scenic and a recreational sports fishery unit. Lands adjacent to the creek and lake possess acceptable recreational potential by reason of location, topography, physical and biological conditions, and can be safely developed for catalogued purposes.

A sport fisheries investigation and a formulated management program has been initiated on both Auke Lake and Auke Creek in an endeavor to meet useage demands anticipated. The following data will indicate recreational useage as a primary value of the area.

1. Topographic Conditions: Variable to the extent of aesthetic attractiveness.
2. Geographical Conditions: Located within an interesting and prime ecological life zone reflecting true flora and fauna of South-eastern Alaska.
3. Accessibility: Located within a short drive of the capital city with a population of around 10,000. Access to the lake and stream limited to a relatively minor portion of the total stream and lake frontage.

Boat launching site and the small recreational area available and easily accessible, via Juneau-Eagle River Highway, is heavily used.

Auke Creek buffer zone and scenic strip provides, at present, the only scenic and recreational access to Auke Bay (Lynn Canal). This stream provides an ideal location, for a logistic and a tourist attraction standpoint, for Southeastern sport fish hatchery operations. Expansion of present hatchery facilities is anticipated.

4. Recreational Season: Recreational season variable, but centers around 175-day season.
5. Fishery(Existing): Depleted and heavily-used sport fishery consisting of dolly varden char (Salvelinus malma), coastal cutthroat trout (Salmo clarkii clarkii), red salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka) and silver salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch). Population manipulation through use of proper fishery management techniques will provide an attractive sport fishery and will yield data on population dynamics, growth, and angler-yield.
6. Angler-Use: Interpolation of catalog, inventory and creel census data indicates more than 920 anglers may have fished 4100 hours for a total catch of 830 dolly varden char, 40 cutthroat trout and 18+ silver salmon.
7. Existing and Potential Value of this area to the Gross Regional Economy: Auke Lake and Creek presents estimated potential of 10,000+ angler-days capacity (42,000 units of effort) at period of ultimate development (2,000+). Present recreational useage by resident (75%) and non-resident (25%) creates a recreational expenditure and an economic value to the region to the possible extent of \$160,000 annually (based on 4% capitalization risk rate). Additional \$3,000 revenue to the area was occurred by the specific cutthroat trout sport fishermen.

Roadside scenic overlook, stream buffer zone and campsite areas admitted 6,000+ visitors during the 1959-60 season. Estimate of 12,000 recreational days use by resident and tourist probably a minimum figure. It appears that summer use of the present campsite area exceeds the safe capacity by 25-30%.

Programs of fishery research, investigation and management within this area of controversy have further clarified the stand of this protest.

1. Along the entire capital city highway system, there exists only one lake-stream-salt water environment with suitable scenic attractions, high sport fisheries potential, easily accessible to the user and still retains the indigenous landscape so appealing to the urbanite recreationalist.

2. It is inconceivable that a waterpipe, some inches in diameter, demands a withdrawal of approximately twelve acres of developed and developable recreational land. The appropriate pipeline right-of-way would be assured should the lands be selected, classified and developed as a recreation and access area.

The whole accessible area must serve all our needs. We can do so only when its management is guided by the determination of the primary values of the unit.

Sincerely yours,

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

C. L. Anderson, Commissioner

CLA:EJC:lc

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